

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4650

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS HANDLING OF BLUE HOUSE WIRETAP STORY

1. KOREAN PRESS JUNE 22 UNIFORMLY RAN ON FRONT PAGES STORIES BASED ON NEW YORK TIMES (NYT) STORY OF JUNE 19 THAT CIA BUGGED BLUE HOUSE IN 1975 THROUGH USE OF AN ELECTRONIC BEAM AND LOCAL ITEMS RECORDING FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN'S SUMMONING OF AMBASSADOR JUNE 21 TO LODGE PROTEST AND DEMAND EXPLANATION. QUOTING FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, LOCAL ARTICLES NOTED FONMIN PAK'S DENIAL THAT MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BLUE HOUSE IN CONNECTION WITH LOBBYING ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. AND ALSO FEATURED AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO FONMIN THAT NYT STORY WAS "GROUNDLESS". AMBASSADOR ALSO REPORTED AS TELLING PAK THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE HAS NEVER WIRETAPPED THE BLUE HOUSE. MOST STORIES QUOTE A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE AS SAYING THAT, IF TRUE, SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD REPRESENT "A GRAVE INFRINGEMENT" OF ROK SOVEREIGNTY, BUT THAT ROKG ACCEPTS AMBASSADOR'S EXPLANATION AS CLOSING CASE.

2. SOME STORIES NOTE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD EARLIER INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO "DEMAND AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLANATION" FROM USG FOR NYT REPORT AND THAT IT IS UP TO USG TO TAKE ANY STEPS AGAINST THE NYT. IN SMALL COMPANION PIECES, SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO QUOTED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT STATE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON BUGGING ALLEGATIONS AND NOTED THAT KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SIK HAD BEEN TOLD BY AN ANONYMOUS DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL THAT NYT STORY WAS BASELESS.

3. INITIAL FOLLOW-UP REACTION AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE
OBSERVERS IS THAT MOFA DENIALS AND REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR'S
DENIAL WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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